600TH ANNIVERSARY
of
OUR LADY
OF CZESTOCHOWA

WHO IS "OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA"?

This is the title given to a miraculous painting which depicts the Holy Mother of God holding her Christ-Child. The painting was brought to the city of Czestochowa in Poland in the year 1382 and became known as "Our Lady of Czestochowa".

HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE IT?

Czestochowa is pronounced as if it were spelled "Chen-sto-hova".

WHO PAINTED THE HOLY PICTURE?

According to tradition this famous Image of the Mother of God was painted by St. Luke the Evangelist. It is believed that it was done on the top of the table at which the Holy Family of Nazareth used to pray and dine.

WHY IS THE PICTURE DARK?

Often referred to as the "Dark Madonna", the Holy Picture is of ancient origin when dark paints were used by artists. Despite popular belief, the Holy Picture was never in a fire.

HOW OLD IS THE HOLY PICTURE?

Nobody knows for certain, but the colors, techniques and composition seem to indicate it as early Christian, Byzantine origin. Recent studies trace it to the 7th or 8th century.

WHERE DO THE SCARS COME FROM?

In 1430 the Shrine in Czestochowa, Poland was invaded and plundered of its treasures. The bandits

removed the Holy Picture from the Altar and attempted to destroy it with a sword, inflicting noticeable scars on the face of Our Lady. In restoring the Painting, these sword slashes were recreated through the use of thick paint as reminders of that dreadful desecration the Holy Image suffered.

IS THE PICTURE ACTUALLY MIRACULOUS?

There are many volumes of miracles registered which have been attributed to the Intercession of Our Lady of Czestochowa. These miracles range from astounding physical healings to spiritual conversions.

WHEN IS THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA?

AUGUST 26th is the actual Feast Day celebrated in Poland. Outside of Poland, the Feast Day is celebrated on the nearest Sunday to that date.

THE SHRINE IN DOYLESTOWN

In 1955 the Pauline Fathers established The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, near Philadelphia, PA, as a similar Marian Center dedicated to Our Lady of Czestochowa in America.

The Shrine is situated on a large 200 acre estate in Bucks County, PA, conveniently located near New Jersey and New York, and only 25 miles north of Philadelphia, 10 miles from the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Since the establishment of the Shrine in America

there have been pilgrimages every Sunday as well as on weekdays. Pilgrimages come by bus or private car. Individual visitors are also welcome.

600 YEARS OF MARY'S REIGN IN POLAND

In 1382 the miraculous painting of Our Lady was brought to the City of Czestochowa in Poland and has been enshrined there ever since. Millions of men and women, young and old, the rich and poor, nobility and the uneducated all travelling every imaginable path of life have come to kneel before this revered icon over the past six centuries seeking the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Czestochowa. The strong devotion of the Polish people to Our Lady is perhaps most clearly illustrated in their veneration of her as the "Queen of Poland". Dedicated lives and a consecrated nation have strengthened the people of this Eastern European country through an often tragic history of wars, invasions and oppression. For 600 years now Our Lady of Czestochowa has reigned in the hearts of the Polish people as an astounding and miraculous source of strength, comfort, courage and grace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

O Mary, our dear Lady of Czestochowa, look graciously down upon your children in this troubled and sinful world. As we celebrate your reign of 600 years amidst the Polish people, so now we beg you to embrace us all in your loving and motherly protection. Protect our youth, from Godless ways, assist our dear ones, grown old

with age, to prepare for their journey home; shield our defenseless unborn from the horrors of abortion, and be our strength against all sin, so that we may always appear pleasing in the sight of your Divine Son. Spare your children from all hatred, dissension and war. Fill our hearts and world with that peace and love which comes only from the Son whom you so tenderly embrace. O, Queen of Czestochowa, be our comfort and strength!

The Order of St. Paul the Hermit, which was founded in 1215, embraces the vocations of the Priesthood and Brotherhood. It offers excellent opportunity to serve God and His Blessed Mother in a variety of ways. It is a privilege to belong to the Order which has for centuries promoted devotion to Our Lady of Czestochowa.

For more information write to:

Vocation Director
Order of St. Paul the Hermit
P.O. Box 151
Doylestown, PA 18901

600th Anniversary Celebration in American Czestochowa

SOLEMN CELEBRATION
Sunday, August 29, 1982

Beginning with the month of March through August, the last Sunday of each month will be designated as "Our Lady of Czestochowa Sunday".

March 28 • April 25 • May 23
June 27 • July 18 • August 29

12:00 Noon — Concelebrated Mass in honor of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

2:00 P.M. — A special lecture and film concerning the significance of the miraculous Picture in Poland's history.

3:00 P.M. — Marian devotion with sermon, procession, consecration to Our Lady of Czestochowa and Benediction.

In order to make this spiritual preparation a great success, we invite all who cherish the devotion to Our Blessed Mother to join us in prayerful unity in honor of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Pauline Fathers